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**England's great
robber**

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[London]

[18--]

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Master Negative Storage Number: OC100036.34**

Control Number: ADH-8340

OCLC Number : 27927171

Call Number : W PN970.E5 ENGLx

**Title : England's great robber : containing the merry life & mad
exploits of Captain James Hind.**

**Imprint : Seven Dials [London] : Printed for and sold by J. Pitts,
[18--]**

Format : 24 p. ; 17 cm.

Note : Cover title.

**Note : Caption title: England's great robber, or, No jest like a
true jest.**

Note : Title vignette.

Note : Tailpiece on p. 22.

**Note : With: The fortunes & misfortunes of Moll Flanders. Seven
Dials [London] : Printed for and sold by J. Pitts, [18--]**

Subject : Chapbooks, English. Subject : Criminals.

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Film Size: 35mm microfilm

Image Placement: IIB

Reduction Ratio: 8:1

Date filming began: 8/30/94

Camera Operator: CT

ENGLAND'S
GREAT ROBBER;
 CONTAINING THE
 MERRY LIFE & MAD EXPLOITS
 OF
CAPTAIN
JAMES HIND.

1. Hind's birth and education, 2. Robs a gentleman on foot, and furnishes himself with a horse. 3. How he was betrayed by two women of the town, who sent two highwaymen to rob him. 4. Hind is enchanted by an old hag for the term of three years. 5. Of his robbing a gentleman in Yorkshire. 6. Robs two gentleman's servants, and draws in a parson to be taken up for the same. 7. Robs a gentleman of 30l. who offered 20l. to see him. Trick on two Bailiffs. Robs a gentleman of an 150l. &c. &c.

Who at the close of all was hanged, drawn, and quartered, for High Treason, at Worcester.



Printed for and sold by J. Pitts, No. 14, Great
 St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials.

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England's Great Robber ;

OR,

NO JEST LIKE A TRUE JEST.

CHAP. I.

Of Hind's birth and education.

CAPTAIN James Hind, the subject of this discourse, was born in Chipping-Norton, in Oxfordshire, His father having no other children, put him to school, but he minded pleasure more than his book, which his father perceiving, bound him apprentice to a butcher, but he ran away from his master, and came up to London, where he soon got acquainted with the most wicked company.—To be short, as they seldom abounded with money, so they scorned to be long in want, for when their stock grew short, they

cut for more. At last the knot was discovered, the chief of them hanged, and Hind escaped with the loss of his horse, and now he sets up for himself.

CHAP. II.

Hind robs a gentleman on foot, and furnishes himself with a horse.

HIND having lost his horse, was resolved to get another, or follow his trade on foot, and to colour his knavery he drest himself like a shepherd, with a pike-staff on his neck, and travelled to Bambury, and in his way he espied a gentleman leading his horse down a hill. Hind then whistled an ordinary psalm.——When the gentleman came where he stood, he asked him the time of the day which he answered civilly ; but as the gentleman was getting on horse, he beat him to the ground. Hind presently took his horse, pistols, and money, and gave him back ten shillings to bear his charges. But to this day the gentleman loves not the tune of a psalm.

CHAP. III.

How he was betrayed by two women of the town, who sent two highwaymen to rob him.

HIND having gotten a great store of gold he passed away the day merrily, and then towards night he rides to an inn which stood in a private road, where it seems some highwaymen did use. After he had seen his horse carefully drest and fed, he came into the house where were two handsome ladies by the fire. He bespoke a good supper, and invited them to it. When supper was ready he called for wine and made them merry. They seemed very coy to him, but he knowing their humours, pulled out of his pocket a handful of gold, singing,

“ Maids, what are your hearts become?
Look ye, what here is !”

After much mirth he went to bed, and presently after came in those men which kept these Ladies, to whom they related all the courtesy of Hind, and

that he had abundance of gold about him. They resolved to watch his going, and follow him. But Hind being wakeful, was got up and mounted before they were stirring. When they heard his horse prance, they looded out of the window, and seeing he had so good a steed were ready to fall out who should have him. I will have the horse, says one, and you shall have the money. Nay, I'll have the horse, says the other. In the conclusion they quickly made themselves ready and rode after him. When they had overtaken him, they asked him which was his road? he answered, Towards Cambridge. They told him they were glad of his company.

Now riding in a convenient place one of the thieves sung :

“ Maids, what are your hearts become?
Look ye what here is !”

Hind seeing their intent, and finding he was betrayed, answered them in the same tune :

“ Rogues, ye are both undone,
Look ye what here is.

And drawing forth his pistol, shot

one of their horses, which presently fell down with his master's leg under him. Then going to the other, he made him deliver such money as he had about him, and cutting his girth and bridle, made him work enough to catch his horse again. Hind now rides to the other who lays but in little case; he alights, and pulls the horse from his leg, then helps him up, and takes away his money also, saying, is there but one master thief in all England, and would you attempt to rob him? Verily, were you not of my own profession, neither of you should have lived; but as you ventured hard for it you deserved something, so gave him his money to buy another horse, saying, strive not at small sums, but aim at great ones, for the least will bring you to the gallows. So Hind shaking the poor thief by the hand, left him and his partner to catch the horse, and bid him farewell.

CHAP. IV.

Hind is enchanted by an old hag, for the term of three years.

AFTER Hind had robbed the gentleman of his horse, it was his chance to ride to Hatfield, where lying at the George Inn, being then the post-house he merrily spent all the evening with some gentlemen who were there. In the morning early, Hind called for his horse, to be gone, and takes leave of those gentlemen who were stirring. And as he rode through Hatfield, an old ill favoured woman asked alms of him; so his horse presently stood still, and would go no further. Sir, said the old woman I have stayed all this morning to speak with you, and would you have me lose my labour? Speak your mind, said Hind. Whereupon the woman began thus:— Captain Hind, you will ride through and go into many dangers. Thereupon by my poor skill, I have thought upon a method to preserve you for three years; but then, the time being

past you are no more than another man, and a mischance may befall you as well as another ; but if you be in England come to me, and I will renew the virtue of the charm again. In saying these words she pulled out of her bosom a little box, almost like a sun dial, and gave it to Captain Hind, and said to him, When you are in distress look upon this, and that way you see the star turn, go and you shall escape. So she swilhed with a white wand that was in her hand, and struck the horse on the buttocks, and bid him farewell. The horse immediately flew forward with such courage that he had not time to thank her but guessing it was her will it should be so, rode on.

CHAP. V.

Of his robbing a Gentleman in Yorkshire

A Gentleman coming from York, intending for London, by accident he met with Hind, who soon made him deliver what he had, and gave him back twenty shillings to bear his cha-

rges, 'till that his credit should better
 furnish him. So the gentleman rode
 on his journey to the next town,
 where he was perfectly known by the
 innkeeper. Being alighted from his
 horse, he immediately desires the host
 to get him something for his supper.
 In the mean time in comes Hind, and
 asks if there were any gentleman go-
 ing the next day to London. The
 host answered, There is a gentleman
 that would be glad of company. So
 Hind went up and paid his obeisance.
 The gentleman said, Sir, sit down, and
 I will shew you how I was robbed to-
 night. I durst have sworn you had
 been the man, but your hair is shorter.
 Said Hind, do you know his horse?
 Yes, said the gentleman. To satisfy
 you, said he, you shall see mine. So
 he goes and asked him, if that was the
 horse? He answered, Yes, Then said
 Hind I cannot stay with you to night
 if you know my horse better than my-
 self. Therefore he bid him farewell
 once again.

CHAP. VI.

*Hind robs two Gentlemen's Servants,
and draws in a Parson to be taken
up for the same ; and his examina-
tion before a Justice.*

HIND being informed of a purchase, espied two gentleman drinking, having sent their servants before. Hind passed them and soon came up with their servants. Hind knowing there was money in their portmanteaus, bid them deliver ; and finding delays would be dangerous, cut open the portmanteaus, and took the money. Riding away with it, he met a parson, and said, Sir, I am like to be robbed come stand by me, one, honest man will scare ten thieves ; you shall have my pistols. So he gave the parson a pistol ready cocked and charged, and bid him fire at them that came first, while I, said he, ride to the next village and raise the country to our assistance The parson having taken a cup too much at a wedding, was not valiant, and rode up boldly to the gentlemen,

and fired his pistol but did no execution. Then he rode up and threw the pistol at the other. But the gentlemen seized him, and the parson cryed, spare my life and take my money. No, firrah, we will have you hanged, what a parson turned highwayman ! When he came before the Justice, they said, we are robbed of 200*l*, and this parson is one of the thieves. The Justice wondered that such apparent testimony should come against the parson who was by this time come to himself, and desired the Justice to let him speak.

This being allowed, he said, Sir, you have known me these twenty years, and no one can say I ever wronged them. As I was riding home I met a man with two bags of money before him, who said, he was pursued by thieves, and gave me two pistols to defend myself, while he raised the country. So when those two gentlemen came down the hill, I rode up to them, and fired my pistol at one of them ; and when I had so done, I hung it at the gentleman's head, taking

them for thieves : Sir, this is all I know of the matter.

The Justice laughed to see the parson of the parish apprehended for a highwayman, but passed his word for his appearance at the next sessions, when he was cleared ; but made a vow he would never fire a pistol again.

CHAP. VII.

Hind robs a Gentleman of thirty pounds who offered twenty to see him.

HIND overtook a gentleman on the road, who said, he'd give twenty pounds to see Hind. And as they were riding the gentleman fancied Hind's horse. Sir, said he, what shall I give you to exchange horses ? Forty pounds, said he. I will give you, said the gentleman, thirty pounds. Hind said, Sir, ride him. So he gave him the money ; when coming to a ditch, I can't leap said the gentleman. So he dismounted, and Hind got up. And being on the other side of the ditch, he said, Sir, you would give twenty pounds to see Hind, and now you have seen him, the other ten are for riding his horse, and so farewell.

CHAP. VIII.

Of his robbing a Parson.

A PARSON riding from Coventry to London, was robbed of his silver, but reserved forty pounds in gold; when Hind coming up, asked him which way he travelled? The parson said, To London. But I have been robbed, and the villains left me but five shillings. Sir, said Hind, I was robbed too, but was cunning enough to hold my gold in my boots. Nay, says the parson, I believe my gold is as safe, for I have put it in the collar of my great coat. Hind was glad when he knew where it was, but being near the inn, they supped, and went to bed. In the morning the parson called up Hind. So coming to a convenient place, he asked the parson if he could guess his trade? No, said the parson. Then, said he, I am a cutter, and must cut the collar of your coat, before I can take your money. Having so done, he left the parson forty pounds lighter than he found him.

CHAP. IX.

Hind's trick on two Bailiffs and an old Usurer.

HIND riding through a town in Warwickshire, he saw a tumult in the street and enquires the reason. One told him an honest inn keeper was arrested for twenty pounds, and that the man was undone. Hind goes to the man, asking what security he would give? Who told him, all he had. So Hind had the old Usurer and two Bailiffs into the house, paid the money and cancelled the bond. Hind enquiring which way the Usurer went, followed and soon overtook him, Friend, said he I just now lent you twenty pounds which I'll have again. — The Usurer said, You paid me too much on a bond. Sir, said he, it is not time to dispute. So he took from the Usurer that, and thirty pounds more, which he had got by usury; and returned the host the writings and five pounds. The Usurer came back thinking to extort some more money, but the host handsomely beat him, which was all he got.

CHAP. X.

Hind robs a Gentleman in Buckinghamshire.

AFTER a day or two Hind rode in- to Buckinghamshire, where he was ac- quainted with many gentlemen. On a time he rode to Chalk-Hill, where a gentleman and his servant rlighted to walk down the hill. The Captain bids his man stay with his horse at the foot of tne hill, while he untrust him- self.

Hind watching the opportunity. rode softly till he came near the Cap- tain, and then bid him deliver, The Captain was amazed at this sudden onset of Hind, who all the while held the pistol to his breast, saying dispatch for I make no delay. The Captain desired he would forbear 'till he was trussed up. Hind gave him so much leave, saying, be quick, Sir. The Captain seeing it could not be avoided gave him thirty pieces of gold. Hind said, Sir I take this in part, and so rode down the hill, where the servant staid with his horse. Hind said, Sirrah, is that your master on the hill? He an-

swered him, Yes, Sir. Then said Hind I seldom take any thing from the master, but I give the servant something, so giving him ten shillings, said, here's something to drink my health, and tell your master my name's Hind.

CHAP. XI.

How Hind robbed a Gentleman of an hundred and fifty pounds.

HIND travelling up and down the country, met with a lusty young fellow whom he had formerly known. He told him, if he would live with him, he should have money at command.

Jack guessing the trade soon gave consent. He presently bought a good horse for his man, and furnished him with a sword, pistol, and cloaths. Being fixed, he went towards Nottingham, and came to an inn, where a gentleman and his servant were just come before, the ostler was then taking off a gentleman's portmanteau. The ostler said, it is but a little portmanteau, but it is very heavy. Hind well espying it, said to his man Jack, enquire which way the gentleman goes to-morrow. So Hind went in,

and they supped together ; and Jack and the gentleman's footman drunk plentifully of sack. Having got acquainted, Jack asked him, which way his master rode the next morning ? He told him, towards London. My master, said Jack, rides that way too, I think. Now he having as much as he desired went to inquire what his master wanted. Then he bid him get his slippers and pull off his boots. When he came to his room, he asked of his man which way he went. So he told him. Soon after breakfast the gentleman pursued on his journey, and riding by a wood side, Hind rode up to him saying, have I nothing to do but wait on you. Jack takes off the portmanteau, saying, Master it is very heavy. Said Hind to the gentleman, You are ill-believed that you can't get gold for silver. Jack rides up to the gentleman's servant and strikes him over the head, saying, must my horse be spoiled to carry your portmanteau ? So Hind left the gentleman and his servant gazing upon one another. Hind and his man spared no horse flesh till they came at a

convenient place, and they looked into the pormanteau, where they found an hundred and fifty pounds. This they counted a very good morning's work.

CHAP. XII.

Hind's Trick on a Committee-Man, who had disguised himself.

A COMMITTEE man having an occasion to travel to London, to buy some goods, hearing there was robbing on the road fitted himself with an old great coat worn out at the elbows, an old mare with rolls instead of stirrups, a saddle not worth three-pence, and a bridle of the same value. Now rides he safe, imagining, but money ill-got will be ill spent, for he met with Hind, who asked him what he was? He replied, an old man going to seek relief. Hind gave him a piece of gold, and bid him drink his health. The old fellow thinking to please Hind, swore he would get drunk. So they parted and the old man reaching his inn, called for a glass of wine, saying, he had

escaped the greatest danger ; for he met with Hind, who instead of robbing him, gave him something to drink his health, but I will see him hanged first Hind came into the inn, using to lie there as a traveller. The host told him in what sad fear an old Committee man was that day, saying he had met with Hind, who gave him money to drink his health, but he'd see him hanged first, and called him a thousand rogues. So Hind went to bed, and let the miser travel first in the morning, and in about an hour he overtook him and asked him if he had drank his health? To which he said he never was so drunk in his life: For, said he, I did drink the King's, Queen's, and Prince's health, and your's ten times. Hind said I have found you out in many lies, and I will now make you call me a rogue for something; so made him untie his greasy knapsack, where he found fifty pounds in gold, and his own piece. Now the committee man resolved to borrow as much money of the state before he went home,

CHAP. XIII.

How Hind passed a Trick upon a famous Dutch Mountebank.

HIND having committed so many robberies, was obliged to go into Holland. Now being in a strange country, he grew short of money. So hearing of a mountebank, who was fortunate in cures, who having been to visit his patients, and received vast quantities of money, was watched by Hind, who saluted him in this wise, Sir, I have heard much of your renown, in cures of dangerous consequences, and seeing it is my happiness to meet with you, I beg you will visit my wife, who is troubled with a flux in her belly for these three or four years past, and you by your experience may do her good, if you please to go and see her. I do humbly request you to go along with me.

The bell sounds well, he goes with him, and by the way gives him comfortable answers, saying, God forbid I should neglect to exert my skill. Upon

these compliments, Hind led him from street to street, until at last he got him to his lodgings, which was so contrived as to be at some distance from the others. Having locked the door he takes up his pistol in one hand, and an empty purse in the other, and looking upon the mountebank, said, Sir, here is my wife, (meaning his empty purse) she hath been a long time troubled with the flux in her belly, and you are the only man can cure the disease, or else by this pistol I am resolved to remedy it. The mountebank seeing himself thus cunningly surprised, cried out, but was soon silenced by the pistol, and was fain to cure Hind's purse of the flux. So he went off with his pistol cocked, for fear of an outcry, and left him to find the way out of the chamber himself.



CHAP. XIV.

Hind goes to Scotland; and is afterward apprehended in London.

HIND being weary of a strange place shipped for Scotland. When he was landed he went to England, and presented himself to the King, who recommended him to the Duke of Buckingham, from whom he got away; but was soon after taken again and carried before the council of state, where he was examined concerning his attachment to Charles Stewart, and furthering his escape; whereunto he answered, He never saw the King since Worcester fight, but was glad to hear of his escape. On which he was committed to the Gate-house, and the next day, strongly guarded and ironed, he was sent to Newgate, where he lay till the ensuing sessions, and the next chapter determines his fate.

CHAP. XV.

The Conclusion, and Hind's farewell at Worcester.

ON the 15th of December, 1651, Captain Hind was brought to the Bar at the Old Bailey, where divers questions were asked him about his life and conversation. He protested his innocency of any crime since 1642 in the parliamentary dominion; so he was acquitted for that time. In the March following he was tried at Reading, and found guilty of manslaughter, and condemned to die, but an act of oblivion being sent, he was acquitted of all his former offences, only the indictment of High Treason against the state; for which he was carried to Worcester, and there hanged, drawn, and quartered, on Friday, September 24, 1653.

Thus fate the great derider did deride,
Who liv'd by Robbary, yet for Treason dy'd.

FINIS.

Printed for and sold by J. Pitts, No. 14, Great
St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials.

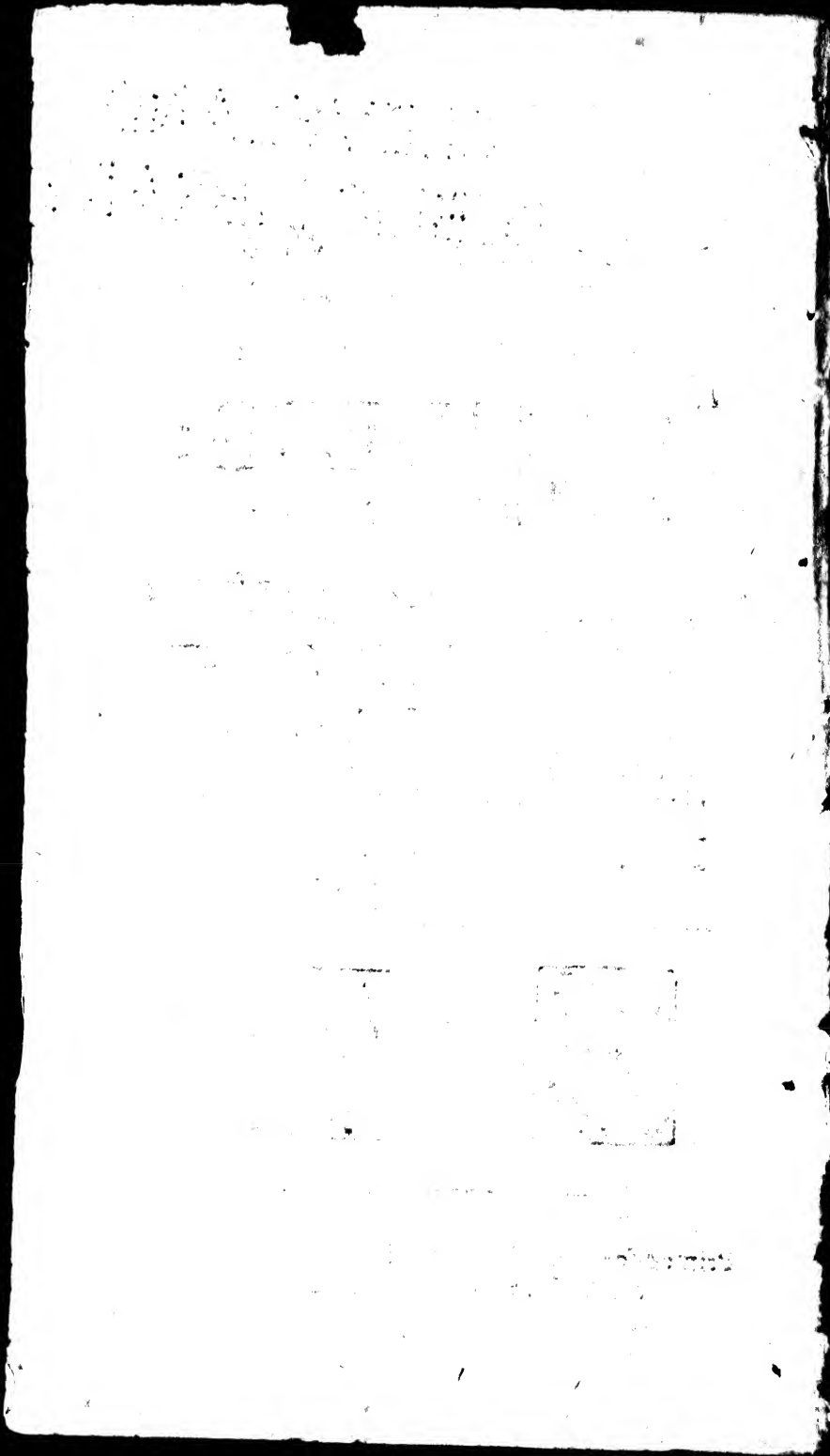
THE
FORTUNES & MISFORTUNES OF
MOLL
FLANDERS;

Who was Born in Newgate:

And during a Life of continued Variety for 60 Years, was 17 Times a Whore—5 Times a Wife, whereof once to her own Brother—12 Years a Thief—11 Times in Bridewell—9 Times in New-Prison—11 Times in Wood-Street Compter—6 Times in the Poultry-Compter—14 Times in the Gatehouse—25 Times in Newgate—15 Times whipped at the Cart's Arle—4 Times Burnt in the Hand—Once condemned for Life; and 8 Years a Transport in Virginia. At last grew rich, lived honest, and died a Penitent.



Printed for and sold by J. Pitts, No. 14.
St. Andrew Street, Seven Dials



THE
HISTORY
OF THE NOTED
MOLL FLANDERS.

THE most remarkable account I can give of my parents is, that my father was hanged for felony, and my mother transported for the same act, after she was delivered of me in Newgate, from whence I was taken by some gypsies, who I remember, left me at Colchester, in Essex.

There the magistrates taking pity on me, put me to a nurse, with whom I was thirteen years, at the end of which time she died, and then being fancied by a rich gentlewoman for my fine needlework, I shared in the education

of her daughter, learning to dance, speak French, and play upon music. These qualifications together with my beauty caused my lady's eldest son to pretend love to me ; and, at last with his alluring speeches, his all-powerful gold, melting kisses, and affectionate promises that he would marry me when he came of age, prevailed on me to surrender up my virginity to him, and to permit him to use me whenever he had will and opportunity.

But scarce a year was expired before the younger brother made love to me also, and in such an open manner that all the family took notice of it.

How I should make a wife to him, and a whore to his brother, I did not know, without being ruined, as loving the former to extremity, and being with child by him : and, in short, there happened such disputes between the two brothers, as had like to have driven me from the family ; but the elder brother consenting that I should marry the younger, as not caring to marry me himself, we were privately married.

The first night he came to bed insensibly drunk, so that I easily per-

being a boy, I was
sundered him he had done what his elder
brother only had done.

About five years after he died, leav-
ing me two children who were taken
care of by his parents.

Having then a tolerable fortune, I
married a draper, who soon went from
me for debt into France; on which I
took a lodging in the Mint, where, in
a widow's habit, I took upon me the
name of Mrs. Flanders.



Here I was courted as a mistress by
several fowd men, but those I treated
with scorn and contempt. At length,
however, it was my good fortune to
marry a gentleman, whose estate was
in Virginia, and whom I deceived, by
pretending I had a very good fortune.

And indeed he proved a very good husband ; and he prevailed on me to go over with him to Virginia, where I was kindly received by my husband's mother.

But here I found that my family was of the Newgate strain, she shewed me where she had been burnt in the hand, bidding me not wonder, for Major —— had been an eminent pick-pocket ; Justice B—— a shop lifter ; and Tom W—— who had narrowly escaped the nabbing post, was here metamorphosed into a Dissenting Preacher.

Here I lived about three years before I had a child, but not without an inward remorse, knowing that my second husband was not dead ; and this set me upon the returning to England, teasing my spouse for that purpose, who wanted to know the true occasion of it. But I told his mother, who came to pump me, that the story he told me of her being transported confirmed me in the belief of her being my mother, who was delivered of me in Newgate, by which means she was saved from the gallows.

This very much surprised her and

she insisted on my keeping it as a secret, the which I promised, but did ~~not~~ perform. But I dreaded the thoughts of another child by my husband, so disclosed all the matter to him, to excuse my coldness in his embraces.—This made him fall into so deep a melancholy, that he twice attempted to destroy himself, but was prevented.

At length with great difficulty, I obtained his leave to return to England, which I did in the month of August, after eight years continuance in that country, landing at Milford Haven, in Wales, and in nine weeks after arrived in London.

Soon after I went to Bath, where I was courted by a gentleman, and from who I received several presents—as an hundred guineas at one time, fifty at another, for taking care of him in a fit of illness. In short I took him for my best friend, taking several journies with him. At length he got me with child, and I was delivered of a fine boy, going by the name of Sir Walter Clare's Lady. From Bath we removed to Hammersmith, near London.

Six years did I live with this gen-

man and had three children by him ; at length he fell sick at Bloomsbury, in a house he had taken for his wife and family. But upon his recovery, I found I was slighted ; no doubt through a remorse of conscience ; yet he sent a letter, with a bank note of fifty pounds, promising to take care of my little boy ; but wanting to get the other fifty pounds from him, I signed a general release, which put an end to that affair.

But it was not long before it was my good fortune to get acquainted with a clerk belonging to the bank whose wife having made him a cuckold by the help of an officer of the army, and after that with a draper's apprentice, I had like to have become his bride, he promising on that account, to sue for a divorce from his wife ; but while this was transacting, going down into Lancashire and passing for a fortune of fifteen thousand pounds, I was married to an Irish gentleman by a Romish clergyman. But he finding I had no such effects as had been represented, nor he any estate, more than what he had spent upon his equipage in courting me, he left me as much more as would bear my

charges to London, discharged me from the marriage—left a letter for me on the table, and went away the next morning; but after he discharged his servant, he returned at night, to my great joy, and accompanied me as far as Dunstable, where we parted, after mutual instructions for our future course of life, and wishes for our well-being.

At London I lodged in an old midwife's house, being then big with child, where, as I had given instructions, a letter was sent me from Lancashire, which had been directed thither by the clerk of the bank, who told me that he had obtained a decree against his wife, and that he was at my service. I sent an answer, under cover, that I should be in town the latter end of the year.

At length, having opened the matter to my landlady, the midwife, she promised to assist me in the affair, and being delivered of a brave boy, which, with much difficulty I allowed her to dispose of, I went to Stone, in Lancashire, and there taking coach, wrote a letter to my clerk to meet me at Brickhill, where we were married.

Next day, from the window of the inn

where we lay, I saw my Lancashire husband, with two others, pass by, and soon after they were pursued as highwaymen.

My husband and I returned to town, where we lived exceedingly happy for the space of five years, by whom I had two children when I rewarded my midwife for her fidelity. But my husband's clerk robbing him, flung him into a consumption, which ended his life, and my happiness together.

Soon after this, being reduced to great extremity, I was tempted to steal a small bundle out of an Apothecary's shop in Leadenhall-street, in which I found a suit of child-bed linen, some fine lace, a silver spoon, three shillings, and some other articles.

Afterwards I inveigled a little child, from whom I took a golden necklace; but I did not kill it, but put it in its way home again.

Another time I took out of a shop at Stepney, two rings, one a diamond, the other a plain one.

Once a thief, being pursued in Lombard-street, dropped a bundle of silk, which I made off with, and disposed of

to good advantage, and not as thieves generally do—for a song.

Another time I stole a silver tankard, out of an alehouse, which I sold to a pawnbroker, who encouraged me in such things. She shortly helped me to a mistress, who made me more expert in the thieving art, but not so unfortunate, for she herself, and one of her scholars, were soon sent to Newgate, for stealing three pieces of cambric, from a linen draper's in Cheapside. Both were condemned to die; but only my tutor was executed, the other coming off with what they call a circuit pardon.

I cannot but reflect upon one crime which I committed, in taking from the hands of a gentlewoman a bundle of plate when her house was on fire, and converting it to my own use.

So fortunate was I in escaping, that I became remarkable among thieves. None so great as Moll Flanders!--But at length being threatened by some in Newgate, I cloathed myself in men's apparel, though my smock face, otherwise personable and tall enough, might soon have betrayed me.

I kept company with another thief, who, being pursued as he was stealing some goods, was unfortunately taken, but I with difficulty made my escape. And, indeed, had my brother thief known of my being a woman, I should have been betrayed ; but throwing off my man's apparel, I had some time after the satisfaction to see him hanged.

My name was as well known at the Old Bailey, as a remarkable traitor's at the Secretary of State's office.

Being now an excellent pickpocket, as well as strumpet, I took from a cull, after I had made him drunk, his gold watch, a silk purse of gold, fine perriwig, sword, and snuff box, and leaped out of the coach, which stopped to let another pass by it. I left my snoring fool to mourn his disaster.

This success made me follow whoring again, but finding the profit of it too little to support me, I stuck principally to my old trade of shop-lifting.

One day as I was walking along a street near Covent Garden, there was a cry of, Stop thief ! a mercer's shop, being robbed, and I secured as a transgressor, and as haughtily insulted by

the mercer and his servants. In a little time they got the right thief, who was much in the same habit as mine; but for this affront I prosecuted him at law, and obliged him to come to an agreement, where I got an hundred and fifty pounds which with my other subsistence, might have maintained me, but having got an itch at thieving, I could not leave it off.

I had an opportunity of commencing a coiner, but that was such a beggarly profession, I would never embark in it; nor could I ever be brought in to the society of house-breakers.

No person could be more dextrous at stealing gold watches from ladies sides than I, either at the park, the playhouse, or at church.

I was very dextrous at gaming, and at one time cleared seventy-three guineas. The uncommon success I had made me go into the country, where at Cambridge, Stourbridge fair, and Newmarket, I very expertly performed the same pranks.

At Ipswich I robbed a gentleman of a portmanteau, by pretending to be

his wife at an inn, in which was a large quantity of gold and silver.

Being come to London, and venturing into a silversmith's shop, when no one was there, I was perceived by a shop-keeper over the way; but as I had got a glance of him, I meddled with nothing, and a justice of the peace just then coming by, being called in, cleared me with flying colours.

Another time, going into a milliner's shop in Cheapside, and cheapening half a dozen of good Holland shifts, I doubted the length of them, upon which she slipped one of the shifts upon her which gave me an opportunity to pin it to her petticoats, when I stooped to measure it, then takeing up the rest, with several fine pieces of muslin, I ran away out of the shop.—The milliner, endeavouring to pull off the smock, pulled up her petticoats, and running after me, cried, Stop thief! Stop thief! with all she had exposed to the public, who, taking her for a mad woman, I got clear off with my booty, and she was bantered to her dying day, besides losing the value of eighty pounds worth of muslin.

But, at last happening to steal some brocaded silk from a mercer's shop, I was committed to Newgate, the place of my nativity, where it is impossible for me to express the horror of my disconsolate mind. Here the wretched triumphed over me—"What!" said they, "is this Mrs. Mary!" and afterwards plain Moll Flanders. But I was forced to comfort myself with this piece of Newgate wit:—

If I swing by the string,

I shall hear the bell ring.*

And there is an end of poor Moll.

Here I got into a blessed acquaintance, whose company soon made me as bad as themselves, where to my amazement I found my Lancashire husband, the Irish gentlemen, whose misfortunes I placed to my own account.

My old tutoress did what she could for me, to make the matter up with the prosecutor, and afterwards to hin-

* *St. Sepulchre's.*

der the jury from finding the bill of indictment against me.

At the sessions I pleaded Not Guilty to the indictment, but was found guilty of felony, and sentenced to be hanged accordingly.

So concerned was my poor governess, that, having repented herself of her sins, she sent me a reverend clergyman also, who represented to me these four important truths—Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell.

When the death warrant came down he visited me as before.

At length the dismal day arrived on which I expected a period to be put to all my miseries in this life: in the morning I heard the doleful tolling of Saint Sepulchre's bell, and the jailor entering, as I expected to summons me to the cart, told me I was reprieved, the unexpected joy of which threw me immediately into a swoon.

After this I was put on board a ship,



in order for transportation, and with me several other convicts, as they then called us. We endured very great hardships in the ship, as, the first night lying on the bare boards, but afterwards we were allowed little cabins, if we had got cloaths to lay in them.

The ship soon after fell down to Busby's Hole, from whence I sent a letter, by the boatswain, who went on shore, to my old governess, who, as soon as possible, sent me a sea-bed and a chest, in one drawer of which was all my money. She also sent an answer to that I had sent to my Lancashire husband, my fellow prisoner; though he could not go with me in the same ship he hoped to see me at Virginia.

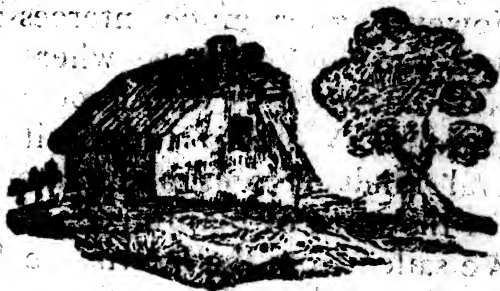
However, after much intercession, he was put on board us, where my money furnished us with good accommodations. We also took with us several kinds of tools and materials, fit for the work of planting.

We sailed from the Downs the 13th of April, and in two months arrived safe in Virginia, where I soon found my son and brother, his father, whom I had made my husband twenty years

before, but my mother had been dead some years, having left a rich plantation to me and my heirs.

Many ways did I ponder upon to get from the sight of my family in these most wretched circumstances, for I could not bear the sight of my child, and my brother and husband, who lived near the place I had taken for my settlement, and upon this account we moved, with all our effects, to Maryland after a long and unpleasant journey.

Upon our landing there we purchased two servants, an English woman, and a Negro man and took a piece of ground of fifty acres, on which we built a very decent house.



And indeed our affairs went on

very prosperously, so that we looked upon each other with pleasure ; and I obtained my husband's consent to make a voyage to Virginia, to discover myself to my brother.

When I landed I wrote a letter to him, telling him of several particular affairs. This letter came to my son's



hands, who asked the messenger where the gentlewoman was that sent it ? And being informed, he said he would wait upon her immediately ; and accordingly, soon after, my son came to me, which was a journey of about

seven miles, attended by two servants on horseback, and coming to me, kissed me, with tender expressions. 'Dear mother, are you still alive?' And there-upon both of us fell a weeping for some time.

He told me that his father was superannuated and beside himself, which made him conceal the letter from him: that the plantation which my mother had left me was in his possession, of the produce of which he gave me an hundred pounds, promising to be a faithful steward. And, indeed in all his actions, he proved a most dutiful child, allotting servants to wait upon me, and treating me with as much splendour as if I had been a sovereign princess.

I presented him with a gold watch, and taking my leave of him, after I had acquainted him that I intended to marry with a gentleman that came over with me, I set sail in a sloop which my son had provided, and came safe to my plantation, bringing over three horses; with harness and saddles, two cows, some hogs, and many other things.

When I told this good fortune to my husband, he lifted up his hands in an extacy of joy, giving thanks to heaven for this happy change; and soon after a cargo came from England, which my governess had sent me, with three women servants, which made my



spouse amazed, especially when I assured him they were all paid for. 'How' says he, 'was I deceived when I married a wife in Lancashire; I think I

have married a fortune, and a good one too.'

I had taken care to buy those things for my husband which I knew he delighted to have : as, two good long wigs, two silver hilted swords, three or four fine fowling-pieces, a fine saddle, with holsters and pistols, very handsome, with a scarlet cloak ; and in one word, every thing I could think of to oblige him, and to make him appear, as he really was—a very fine gentleman.

I must not omit, that one of the girls my governess sent us, happened to come double, having been got with child by one of the seamen of the ship, as she said afterwards, before the ship was got so far as Gravesend, so that she brought us a stout boy about seven months after her landing.

After the death of my brother, or former husband, my son visited us, and my husband made him exceeding welcome, and truly no person could be blessed with a more dutiful and tender child.

In this happy and delightful manner we lived for the space of twenty

years and upwards, resolving to spend the whole of our remaining days on earth in sincere penitence and unfeigned sorrow for the wicked lives which we had lived, and thus, by being hospitable and generous, pious and charitable, and relieving many from want and slavery, we gained the esteem of all who knew us, passing our time very comfortably.

CONCLUSION.

THUS have we given an account of **MOLL FLANDERS**, exactly taken from her own Memorandum, to which we have only to add, That we have an account from Virginia, that she died there, after having prepared for that awful change with the greatest piety and devotion; and as she perceived her dissolution draw near, she bequeathed several legacies to charitable uses; and dying, her funeral was performed with great solemnity, being interred in St. Mary's Church, in Virginia.

On a plain marble tablet, over her tomb, the following lines were engraved

24
as a memorial of her extraordinary
character:

EPITAPH.

" Newgate thy dwelling was: thy beauty
" made thee

" A goddess stern, and that alone be-
" tray'd thee:

" Twelve years a whore, a wife unto thy
" brother,

" Lo! such a thief there scarce could
" be another.

" Unwearied traveller, whither dost
" thou roam?

" And in this place remote to find a
" tomb!

" Transported hence, to Heaven thy
" hop'd thou'rt sent,

" Who wicked liv'd, but died a peni-
" tent."

FINIS.

Printed for and sold by J. Pitts, No. 24, Great
Saint Andrew Street, Seven Dials.